



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**for**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2003**  
**Art Pick Council Chambers – 5:30 P.M.**  
**3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA**

Present: Commissioners Davidson, Garcia, Gardner, Howe, Huerta, O'Meara and Ward

\*Absent: Brewer

\* As of this date, one seat was vacant.

**The following proceedings have been digitally recorded. For copies please call the CPRC office at (909) 826-5509.**

Chairman Gardner led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Gardner asked Ms. Sherron to confirm commissioner attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Howe noted that the time the Commission reconvened to open session on March 26 needed correcting from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30. Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the minutes for the March regular meeting and the April 9 case review meeting. Commissioner Howe seconded the motion. Both motions passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report & Comments**

Mr. Williams noted that the CPRC 2002 Annual Report was now out. He encouraged commissioners to attend community meetings and when doing so, to distribute the annual report in order to educate the public about the Commission and its activities.

Ms. Sherron advised the commissioners of the Riverside Neighborhood Conference to be held at UCR on June 28. Ms. Sherron asked for volunteers to man the CPRC booth.

Commissioner Howe asked about the noting of false complaints in the "Trends and Patterns" section of the Annual Report. Vice-Chair Huerta said that was covered on Pg. 20 under "Use of Technology," which noted that audio recordings helped to vindicate officers.

Vice-Chair Huerta asked if there had been any updates on any of the OIS cases. Mr. Williams said he believed the Muñoz case had gone to the D.A. but that the other two were still going through the RPD process. He said he had no idea when they would be released by the D.A.

Mr. Williams said that the Mayor's Nominating and Screening Committee selected five applicants for the vacancy created by Commissioner Hendrick's resignation but that he doesn't know when they will be interviewed by the City Council.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Garcia noted that author Victor Villa Señor would be speaking this evening at the new Casa Blanca Learning Center.

Commissioner Garcia also said that he had flyers for the Cinco de Mayo fiesta to be held on May 3 and 4.

Chairman Gardner said that he and Vice-Chair Huerta met with Asst. City Manager (ACM) Graft. He said they learned that the rationales for CPRC case findings were not going to RPD for legal reasons. He said that an alternative procedure has been instituted and asked the Executive Director to explain.

Mr. Williams said that when the Commission has concerns with case issues, he speaks to ACM Graft, who in turn passes the information to Chief Leach. He said he has asked for feedback so the Commission will know that its concerns were received and asked to be advised as to any problems there might be addressing issues presented by the Commission.

Chairman Gardner said that he has been meeting with the Chief on a semi-regular basis to talk about "what's new, what's different, what's happening." He said he also extended an invitation to the Chief after a commissioner suggestion that the RPD have a spot on the agenda so they can address the Commission regarding RPD activities. Chairman Gardner said the Chief liked the idea, but didn't want it to be a regular agenda item but rather when there were things that were happening or would be happening.

Chairman Gardner noted that the officer who fired the fatal shot in the Muñoz incident was no longer with RPD. Both he and Mr. Williams noted that it had nothing to do with discipline or with the incident, but neither knew the details.

Commissioner O'Meara asked if it wouldn't be a good idea for the Commission to know why the officer left RPD in case members of the public asked commissioners. Mr. Williams said that he wasn't saying that the Commission wouldn't know, but that at this time they didn't. He said that if the information isn't in the package sent to us by RPD, we could ask. Mr. Williams suggested waiting to see what was in the case books before asking. Chairman Gardner said that he felt "the only right answer that we have is 'we understand that the officer is no longer with the Department and we don't know why.'" He noted that it is a personnel matter and therefore private.

Commissioner Howe noted that officers sometimes leave law enforcement after they have been involved in a shooting death.

Commissioner Ward said that the Commission should be advised of the reason the officer left RPD. He noted that there was another officer involved in a shooting who is also no longer with the Department. He said the Commission should know why these officers are no longer with the Department.

Mr. Williams advised waiting until the investigation is received and if the information is not available, then the question can be asked if the Commission feels it is necessary.

Commissioner Garcia asked if the Chief was going to be sending any of his staff to sit in on case reviews. Chairman Gardner said that hadn't been discussed with the Chief. He said that some commissioners had concerns about that. RPOA also had concerns about "management representatives" being present when there weren't "officer representatives" present in the meetings. Chairman Gardner said that if there

is a question as to procedure, he felt it would be better to hold the case, ask the question and wait to get the answer back rather than have someone from I.A. in the meetings.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

The Commission adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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PHOEBE SHERRON  
Sr. Office Specialist